

May Semiannual Meeting Report

CSZ President Irene Ogus called the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Semiannual Meeting to order. After Rabbi Kahn led the chanting of the *shechekiaynu*, he described the idea of sanctifying both new and ancient sources of Torah. Irene, CSZ Treasurer Jerry Rosenstein and Rabbi Kahn gave their reports, followed by reports from each of the 16 CSZ committees on their work and progress.

Proposed bylaws making the scheduling of congregational meetings more flexible were passed unanimously, as were those regarding Candidates' Nights. Finance Committee chair Don Albert explained the background to the proposed Building Fund assessment, which was then thoroughly discussed. A majority of those voting on this issue voted in favor of establishing an annual Building Fund assessment of \$30 per adult wage earner, beginning January 1, 1988. The proposed bylaws for establishing a Sha'ar Zahav Endowment Fund were approved unanimously.

Election Committee chair Allan Gold thanked the members of the Elections Committee, as well as all of the seven candidates for the Va'ad who agreed to run in this contested election. The four officers elected were Richard Inlander, President; Irene Ogus, Vice President; Eric Keitel, Treasurer; and Ben Schalit, Recorder. The five Va'ad members elected this year were Tiela Chalmers, Betty Kalis, Garry Koenigsberg, Robin Leonard and Alita Rosenfeld.

This semiannual meeting became the last of its kind. Future Congregational Meetings will be held annually—and will also, we expect, end with the singing of *Oseh Shalom*.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

Ten from the Heart

Put On Those Dancing Shoes!

Invitations for our 10th Anniversary Gala Celebration have been sent out, and we're hoping to see all of you there on Saturday, August 8. This party will be one of the highlights of the synagogue year, so be sure to order your tickets (which will be held for you at the door) as soon as possible.

With catering by Bon Appetit, consisting of three different buffet tables, each decorated with a distinct San Francisco Bay Area theme and menu, no one should go away hungry. Use your imagination and conjure up what might be appearing on plates after visiting the North Beach, the Napa Valley and the Ghirardelli Square buffets.

Ten from the Heart

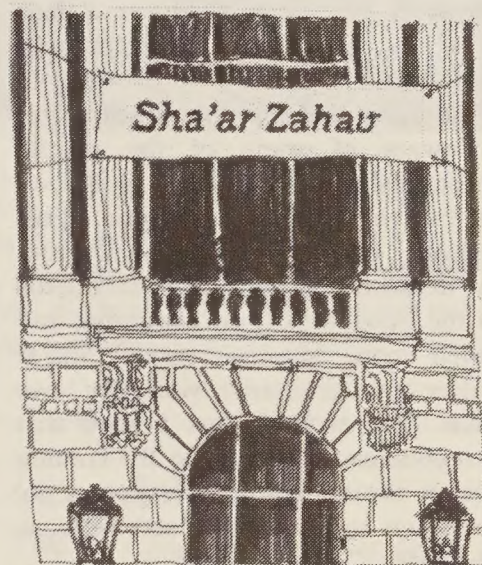
Saturday, August 8
8:00 pm

Green Room
War Memorial &
Performing Arts Center
Van Ness & McAllister
San Francisco

Sound system and disc jockey services will be provided by one of our own members, Randall Schiller. Randy has promised a first-class sound experience that will keep us boogeying until the clock strikes 12. The musical selections have been hand picked by mavens in the dance field to suit the varied tastes of the Sha'ar Zahav membership.

In addition, secret negotiations now underway may bring the world-renowned Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble to entertain at some point in the evening.

Decorations will be in the tasteful hands of Ralph Frischman and his talented design associates. Those of you who have attended our functions in the past know what Ralph can do.



RALPH FRISCHMAN

All in all, it will be a night to remember for all of us and for the entire community. Be sure to invite your friends and family to attend as well—let's take advantage of this gala to introduce people to the wonderful world of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

For further information about the party, please contact Eric Keitel at 239-8180. We will also need some volunteers to help us in last-minute planning and execution, so if you would like to be involved in putting this event together, give Eric a call.

Notice: This 10th Anniversary issue of the *Forward* is also our combined July/August summer newsletter. The deadline for the September issue will be Monday, August 10.

President's Column

Thank You & You're Welcome

Thank you. As you read this, I and several other members of the congregation will be joining hundreds of women and men in Amsterdam for the 10th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews. Some of us will continue on for a two-week tour of Israel.

I want to thank you all for the honor of being elected, and for the privilege of making my first trip across the ocean as president of Sha'ar Zahav. Irene will continue at the helm until our return.

I am sure that everyone reading this is aware of some of the special accomplishments of our congregation in the past year, and of Irene Ogus' personal contribution to them. From the dedication of our memorial boards to the purchase of our computer, and much more, she has served Sha'ar Zahav extraordinarily well. We owe Irene a great deal, and I hope that everyone can find time in the coming year to express our appreciation as she continues her tradition of service to us, this year as Vice President.

Welcome. Hopefully, everyone who is new to Sha'ar Zahav will hear this word as he or she enters our sanctuary for the first time. There by the door, every Friday evening, is a member of the Membership Committee and a member of the Va'ad. It's funny how something can become so familiar that we know it without ever paying attention to it. As I read the candidates' statements for our recent election, I was struck by Recorder Ben Schalit's description of the duties of office as including the welcoming of worship-

pers. I had taken my turn at the door innumerable times and had never thought of it as a duty of office, which indeed it is.

It is also, I believe, a duty of membership and I think most of us see it that way, for our warmth is the one thing that visitors consistently comment on; and it is that aspect of our temple which brings people back again and again, ultimately into membership.

I hope that we will continue making everyone feel welcome. I am particularly hopeful that we will reach out into the vast community of unaffiliated Jews, and let them know they are welcome here. There are many who have been made to feel unwelcome by other synagogues and by the Jewish community in general. I am thinking of those in mixed relationships who may feel that their partners are not welcome in synagogue life, of children of mixed marriage, and also of Jews by choice.

We are a Reform congregation with a special outreach to the gay and lesbian community. But our uniqueness extends beyond that. We are a friendly, nurturing congregation where everyone is, and hopefully always will be, greeted with a smiling face, and a warm "Welcome!"

—Richard Inlander, President

MEMBERSHIP

feels good

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained another new member in June. A warm welcome to the latest person to join our family:

Barry Gold

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Alita Rosenfeld, David Stein and Peter Vishniac (general editorial and production); Amy Blasenheim (photos); Frank Hyman, Chuck Norton, Ben Schalit, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Pagesetter Typography.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Contact Jay Feinstein (621-7152) for specific rates. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

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Sha'ar Zahav Funds

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, simcha, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund: underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the congregation.

The AIDS Fund: assistance of members and friends diagnosed with AIDS and support of AIDS-related educational and humanitarian projects in our community.

The Building Fund: mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund: cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Endowment Fund: long-term investments ensuring for the future needs of the congregation.

The Library Fund: development of a reference library for our congregation.

The Prayer Book Fund: underwrite the costs of writing, revising and publishing our prayerbooks.

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: supports *tzedakah* and special needs in the congregation and the community.

The Social Action Fund: contributions to social causes that the synagogue wishes to lend support to—for example, aid to Ethiopian Jewry, Soviet Jewry, and San Francisco Jewish Family and Children's Services.

The Torah Fund: purchase of a new Torah and adornments for our congregation.

Contributions are acknowledged by letter and in the *Forward*, and the person being honored also receives a card announcing the gift. All donations to Sha'ar Zahav are tax deductible.

Our advertisers support the *Forward*.
Please tell them where you saw their ads.



Election Results: Pictured at the Congregational Meeting are the newly elected officers and Va'ad members for 1987-88. In back are Recorder Ben Schalit, Vice President Irene Ogus, President Richard Inlander and Treasurer Eric Keitel. In front are new Va'ad members Tiela Chalmers, Betty Kalis, Alita Rosenfeld and Robin Leonard. Garry Koenigsberg (not shown) will also be returning for another two-year term, joining continuing Va'ad members Jay Feinstein, Bob Goldware, Ellen Kugler and Sen Talley.

Education Committee Summer Classes

Calligraphy and Gay Themes in Hebrew Literature will be the two classes offered this summer by the Education Committee. Each class will run for four sessions.

The Gay Themes in Hebrew Literature will be taught by Jody Hirsh, professor at the University of San Francisco. It will explore gay themes in the Bible, Hebrew poetry of medieval Spain, the literature of the Jewish Enlightenment and the modern Israeli scene. The class will meet Thursday nights, August 6, 20, 27, and September 3, at the synagogue.

Calligraphy will be taught by Susan Greenspan Tuesday nights, August 4, 11, 18, and 25, at 7:30 at the synagogue. Ms. Greenspan is a noted artist and teacher in the Bay Area. Her class will be a practical hands-on experience learning and actually using the basic elements of calligraphy.

Registration for each class is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. For additional information call the synagogue office.

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss:

To **Keith Barton** on the recent loss of his lover, John Schlott.

To **Steve Rosenberg** on the recent loss of his friend, John Schlott.

To **Ellen Peskin** on the recent loss of her aunt, Lois Jean Forman.

To **Yael Silverberg** on the recent loss of her grandfather, Sam Silverberg.

To **Alita Rosenfeld** on the recent loss of her aunt, Helen Epstein.

To **Yo Schneeman** on the recent loss of her father, Walter Schneeman.

To **Jonathan Schwartz** on the recent loss of his grandmother, Sara Newman.

To **Ora Prochovnick** on the recent loss of her grandmother Pearl Solove.

To **Peter Abinanti** on the recent loss of his mother, Catherine Abinanti.

To **Bob Kravitz** on the recent loss of his cousin, Edward Kravitz.

The Congregation also mourns the recent loss of our member and friend, **Allan Altman**.

Lastly, the Congregation also mourns the recent loss of our friend and former member, **Robert Mackey**.

Welcome to All

At Sha'ar Zahav, we work hard to make our synagogue accessible. In the past, many of us were excluded or made to feel unwelcome at other synagogues and Jewish communal institutions. Ensuring that others do not experience what we went through has become a communal goal. This important value, a lesson learned from our personal experiences, is also a mitzvah taught from our people's experience: "You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger" (Exodus 23:9). In this column, I would like to draw your attention to three different groups of strangers to whom we already reach out, but who need to be further welcomed.

An out-of-town rabbi recently came to worship at CSZ on a Shabbat evening. When we chatted later, I asked for his impressions of the service and the synagogue. He commented favorably on our liturgy and how warm the congregation is. "So you felt welcomed?" I asked. "Actually, no. People were very warm to each other—but they all seemed to ignore me." Greeting and welcoming is not a professional skill which only the dedicated volunteers on the Membership Committee have! The "caring community" which we aspire to become begins in the small gestures of welcome and concern each of us can do for one another. Whether a person comes every week or has never walked in the door before, the meaning and message of our synagogue will be conveyed by how she is treated by others: does anyone speak to the person sitting alone in a pew before the service? During the singing of *Hinei Ma Tov* or *Oseh Shalom*, are the person or couple sitting by themselves "linked" to the congregation? Newcomers do not know the "etiquette" of our synagogue; but the "regulars" across the aisle or in the pew ahead or behind can walk over and, with their deeds, make another welcome. During the *motzi* in the Oneg Room, we readily touch a stranger with our hand; let us not hesitate to put our hearts to similar use.

There are people in the community who are comfortable at the congregation, know the etiquette but are still

"strangers" to what we stand for. Recently, a person explained to me that he really liked CSZ "but could not afford to join." I was deeply saddened by this comment because it suggested to me that despite the best efforts of our treasurer, Membership Committee and leadership, we have not succeeded in getting our message out. Our information brochure and our application state: *No person will be denied membership because of an inability to pay.* Sha'ar Zahav is supported by the pledges and donations of our members and contributors, and the synagogue asks you to contribute as generously as you are able. This principle was established in the earliest days of our synagogue and has been reaffirmed continually, in word and deed, ever since. It is the hope of our entire leadership—and, I trust, the membership as well—that no person or family will refrain from joining the synagogue because of a perceived inability to pay.

A different group of strangers are our children. Some of us are strangers to children; and for children, the synagogue can be a strange place! What kind of welcome do we extend to our children? Some of us grew up with the message that "services are not the place for children." I believe that the opposite is true. If our children are to grow up with a love for Judaism and the Jewish people, then the synagogue of their childhood must be a place where they are welcomed and loved. There are increasing numbers of children whose families belong to our congregation. For these children (and their parents) to feel welcome, they, like anyone else, need to be accepted for who they are. Children make noise, they ask questions, they need to run around. In order to make our synagogue accessible for our children, we have to settle for a little less decorum and occasional unexpected interruptions. These children are our own future and the future of the Jewish people—let us not only make them welcome, let us cherish and nurture them together.

Best wishes for a restful and relaxing summer.

—Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn

Naches

Mazel tov to our congregation's two newest attorneys to pass the California Bar: **Adrienne Forshay** and **Alice Perlman**.

Congratulations (and thanks) to all those who were instrumental in getting the *SF Chronicle* to change its obituary policy to include the names of surviving non-marital partners: in particular, CSZ member **Roberta Achtenberg**, Directing Attorney of the Lesbian Rights Project, and **Rabbi Yoel Kahn**.

* * *

We'd all like to share in the *naches* of members of our Sha'ar Zahav family. If you or someone you know has something special to share with *Forward* readers, please contact the synagogue office.

Office Notes

Thank you: to St. Raphael's for the loan of the beautiful oak cabinet in the back of the sanctuary.

Details, details: Please notify the office if your address or phone number changes. This will allow you to keep informed of CSZ news and other important communications. It also will save us a fortune in return address notifications from the post office.

When you use the synagogue, please make sure you leave the building clean and neat.

Please note that the June 1 deadline for cookbook sales at reduced rates has passed. The book is now priced at \$12.95, and well worth it. Sha'ar Zahav t-shirts and sweatshirts are also available for sale. With the 10th anniversary celebration coming up in August, now would be a good time to show your colors by purchasing these shirts.

The *Keeping Posted* issue on homosexuality is still available for sale (\$1.50). This issue has much information about Sha'ar Zahavniks and is a great piece of memorabilia.

Rabbi's Schedule: Rabbi Yoel Kahn will be in Amsterdam attending the meeting of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations June 30–July 5 and on vacation July 6–19 and August 10–24. In case of an emergency, please call the synagogue office.

But If We Are For Ourselves Alone, What Are We?

Sha'ar Zahav in the World

Vey iz mir! I complained to myself. Now what! Here I've flown 3,000 miles to speak about Judaism and homosexuality at Major Eastern University. I've shown slides of a year in the life of the congregation and discussed modern perspectives on the Torah passages regarding homosexuality. I've talked about the need for "gay outreach" synagogues, about gay men and lesbians as parents, and about the parents of gays. I've read parts of our liturgy, to them and explained what we've done to make it equally relevant to women and men, to heterosexuals and gays. They've heard about the congregation as a caring community, about our outreach to the elderly, our covenant of sanctuary with Central American refugees, our response to the AIDS crisis. And what do I get from the first sophomore whose hand goes up?

"Sir, may I ask a silly question?" Oy!

"Well, sure," sez I. "There are no silly questions, only questions you don't know the answers to." Which really isn't true, but it's what everyone expects you to say. In any case, I wouldn't imagine this kid could ask me one I hadn't heard, after six years on the Sha'ar Zahav speakers' circuit.

Wrong. This one *was* new!

"Uh, I was wondering—could you tell me how is Aunt Yente?"

Pause. Three beats. "Well, she's just fine, just fine—but how in the world did you know about Aunt Yente?" Aunt Yente is the *nom de plume* of a member of Sha'ar Zahav who writes a column for the *Forward* each month, usually answering questions about Jewish tradition and practice. It's a brilliant educational device, and this beloved figure has taken on a life of her own. The name of the person who writes the column is a fairly well kept secret in the congregation.

The student continued. "Our Hillel gets your newsletter, and our rabbi used one of her answers in his Rosh Hashanah sermon. It made me think. She's wonderful! Please tell her hello for me." I promised that I would, and I did.

Aunt Yente's newsletter, the *Gaily Forward*, is mailed to more than a

thousand individuals, congregations, colleges, Jewish libraries, and Jewish papers and magazines every month, in addition to the 350 members of the congregation. It's one indication of the congregation's attempt to reach beyond its own membership and its own particular concerns. It reflects a determination to use the newsletter to educate others about issues of importance to lesbians and gay men.

Most members of Sha'ar Zahav are gay and Jewish, but we have never defined ourselves in such narrow terms. If there is a problem in the larger Jewish world, it is our problem. If there is an important issue in the gay community, it is our issue. To a remarkable extent for such a small congregation, we have engaged the world on its own terms, and in some significant ways, made it better.

Soviet and Ethiopian Jews

For years, Sha'ar Zahav members have worked actively on behalf of Jews in countries where they are oppressed—in Russia and Ethiopia, in Syria and in Iran. The congregation raised \$3,000 to rescue an elderly Ethiopian Jewish woman and bring her home to Israel—three years before Operation Moses. We march with Jews from other congregations in front of the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco, protesting the inability of Russian Jews to immigrate, and to practice their religion freely. We visit refuseniks when we are in Eastern Europe, and write to them, helping to keep their hopes alive, letting them know they are not alone.

The Sanctuary Movement

In 1985, Sha'ar Zahav became the first synagogue in San Francisco to sign a Covenant of Sanctuary on behalf of refugees from the fighting in Central America. We discussed and highlighted their plight in our Passover seders, and on the Shabbat after Pesach this year we had a "Sanctuary Service" to which a number of refugees were invited. The liturgy was in Spanish as well as English and Hebrew; it included songs and readings on the themes of freedom and liberation, presented by the refugees

themselves. The congregation also has a fund for refugee assistance to which many members have contributed.

The Elderly

Shortly after Sha'ar Zahav was founded, Rabbi Ben Marcus joined us. Rabbi Ben was the chaplain at the Jewish Home for the Aged and it was he above all who made us aware of the need to reach out to people who are lonely, poor and isolated, in nursing homes and low-income hotels. This we have done every Shabbat and holiday. If these elderly Jews can travel, we bring them to our services. If they cannot, we go out to visit them, bringing the songs and prayers and foods and celebration of the holidays with us. When Rabbi Ben died in 1985, congregation members led services at the Jewish Home for several months, until a new rabbi was hired. Ben taught us that the elderly would enrich our lives at least as much as we enriched theirs, and he was right.

AIDS

It was a Shabbat that we would long remember. In December 1981, when we were just beginning to realize the seriousness of the AIDS epidemic, a physician was invited to give a talk on AIDS after services. When he finished speaking, board member Mark Feldman walked to the front of the room and faced the audience.

"Please listen to what he has told you," Mark began. "We've been pretending that this disease only strikes other people, not us or anyone we know. But it can hit anyone. I know, because I have it. I have AIDS."

He left us in stunned silence for a moment, then continued. "Now I'm a fighter, and I know you are too. I'm not going to give in to this thing, and neither are you, not without fighting back. I can afford good medical care, but some of us can't. So let's establish a fund in the congregation for those who might need financial assistance if they became ill."

The fund was started, and is still serving the purpose Mark envisioned. But that was only the beginning. Soon

(Continued on next page)

Ten Years *(Continued from previous page)*

the women of the congregation began the tradition of the twice yearly blood drive, giving to the congregation's account so that anyone who needed blood would have it at no cost. We began to collect food and toiletries every Shabbat and holiday, to be donated to people with AIDS through the AIDS Foundation. Members of Sha'ar Zahav made generous donations to the new hospice program, dedicating rooms to members of the congregation who had died of AIDS. Many of us have become Shanti volunteers, assisting those who are ill with housekeeping, with shopping and transportation, offering a hand to hold, a little empathetic listening.

In 1985, the congregation wrote a resolution on AIDS for the biennial convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The resolution called on the government to provide greatly increased funding for prevention, treatment, and research. It demanded that people with AIDS be protected from arbitrary dismissal from their jobs and eviction from their homes. It called for the establishment of a permanent Committee on AIDS from within the Union, a committee which could prepare educational materials for rabbis and congregations around the country and in Canada. The resolution passed. The committee now exists, and the first mailings went out in April to all Reform synagogues and rabbis. It included materials written by Sha'ar Zahav members, including those on the committee itself (three of the four Northern California representatives are members of the congregation).

At the 1987 Biennial in Chicago, there will be a comprehensive workshop on AIDS for all delegates, with Surgeon General Koop the keynote speaker. Delegates will also receive the latest issue of *Keeping Posted*, a magazine for teenagers in Reform religious schools. This issue will be devoted entirely to articles on AIDS, some of which were written by Sha'ar Zahav members.

Sha'ar Zahav within the UAHC

In 1981, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav became the second of four "gay outreach" synagogues to be admitted to

the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. (The others are in Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago.) The UAHC has been enormously helpful to us in many ways, and we have been a constructive presence in the Union as well.

Shortly after we joined, the UAHC published a new translation of the Torah, with commentary written by scholars from around the world. In many ways it was superb. But the commentary on Leviticus 18 and 20 included a discussion of homosexuality which was factually inaccurate and patronizing in tone. It perpetuated some of the worst myths and stereotypes about gay people, the same myths which through the centuries led to discrimination and to violent attacks against lesbians and gay men.

As soon as we read it, we contacted the leadership of the UAHC, who shared our concern and invited us to revise the section for the second edition. We did so, and the new edition will contain a discussion of the Leviticus chapters which is unbiased and accurate, reflecting contemporary perspectives of scientists and theologians.

That episode gave us an opportunity to get to know the leadership of the Union, and to realize that once they understood our concerns, they would be very supportive indeed. Now we are represented on most major UAHC national committees, as well as the board and committees of the Northern California Region of the Union. One of our members has been nominated for appointment to the national board. [In fact, this was the indefatigable Mike Rankin, author of this article. —Ed.]

The Fall 1985 issue of *Keeping Posted* contained a number of excellent articles on homosexuality and Judaism, including one written by a Sha'ar Zahavnik. And in October of that year, the national convention in Los Angeles held its first-ever workshop on Judaism and homosexuality. Organized by members of Sha'ar Zahav and Beth Chayim Chadashim, our sibling congregation in Los Angeles, the workshop was called "Toward a Better Understanding of our Lesbian and Gay Sisters and Brothers." It had a wonderful impact on the overflow crowd that attended, and will be

repeated at the 1987 convention.

Liturgy as Prayer and Message

Almost from the beginning, the congregation has used its own liturgical materials. The prayerbooks written for mainstream congregations contain much that is rich and beautiful, but they also contain gender references to God which make many of us uncomfortable. The Creator is portrayed in such masculine terms as "Lord," "King," "Father," etc. We found this a barrier to a meaningful worship experience. So we removed those references and substituted words such as parent, ruler, Adonai and Shaddai. And we added prayers and readings which reflect the lives and special concerns of lesbians and gay men. It was an enormous undertaking, writing siddurim for Shabbat evening and morning services, machzorim for the High Holy Days, a Hagadah for Passover. But it was also an opportunity to explore together the richness of our liturgy, and to think about the role of God and of Judaism in our lives.

That liturgy is now being used in many other congregations—in a Reform havurah in an eastern college, at Hillel student centers in the Midwest and even in Czechoslovakia. Two years ago, one of our members attended Shabbat morning services at the Alte Neue Shul in Prague. He was unable to read Czech, so he used the Sha'ar Zahav prayerbook which he had brought with him. After the service, an elderly man, a holocaust survivor, approached him.

"I see that your prayerbook has very simple Hebrew with transliteration," he said. "I wonder if I might have a copy. I am trying to teach my young grandchildren Hebrew and the prayers, and they will not allow us to have our own educational materials here."

Profoundly moved, Bob gave him the prayerbook and hugged him. The Torah in the Ark at Sha'ar Zahav is on permanent loan from a small Czech Jewish community which did not survive the holocaust. Perhaps the gift of our prayerbook is a small repayment for the Torah they left to us.

Ten years.... Ten from the heart.

—Mike Rankin

JULY-AUGUST

תמוז-אב-אדר

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			4 Tammuz 1	5 2	6 3	7 4
				10th Int'l Conf. of Gay/Lesbian Jews, Amsterdam (thru 7/5)	Services, 8:15pm	
8 5	9 6	10 7	11 8	12 9	13 10	14 11
			Soviet Vigil Green & Baker, 11:30am	Social Action Comm. 7:30pm	Services, 8:15pm	
15 12	16 13	17 14	18 15	19 16	20 17	21 18
	Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm	Women's Havurah, 7:30pm		Bikkur Cholim Comm. 7:30pm	Services, 8:15pm	
22 19	23 20	24 21	25 22	26 23	27 24	28 25
					Leadership Advance, Wildwood (thru 7/26) Services, 8:15pm	Morning Service, 10:30am
29 26	1 Av 27	2 28	3 29	4 30	5 31	6 August 1
	Rosh Chodesh	Education Comm., 7:30pm		Ritual Comm., 6:30pm	Service, 8:15pm New Members Night	
7 2	8 3	9 4	10 5	11 6	12 7	13 8
	Tisha B'Av Service, 7:30pm	Tisha B'Av Hebrew Calligraphy Class, 7:30pm Newsletter Comm., 7:30pm, 140 Ord		Gay Themes in Hebrew Lit. Class, 7:30pm	10th Anniversary Service, 8:15pm	10th Anniversary Gala, 8pm, Green Room, SF War Memorial
14 9	15 10	16 11	17 12	18 13	19 14	20 15
	Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	Calligraphy Class 7:30pm	Soviet Vigil Green & Baker, 11:30am	Social Action Comm., 7:30pm	Services, 8:15pm	
21 16	22 17	23 18	24 19	25 20	26 21	27 22
Brunch Report on Amsterdam Conf., noon		Calligraphy Class 7:30pm		Hebrew Lit. Class, 7:30pm Bikkur Cholim Comm., 7:30pm	Services, 8:15pm	
28 23	29 24	30 25	1 Elul 26	2 27	3 28	4 29
Softball Game & Picnic, 1:30pm, Julius Kahn Field		Rosh Chodesh I Calligraphy Class, 7:30pm	Rosh Chodesh II	Ritual Comm., 6:30pm Hebrew Lit., 7:30pm Newsletter Mailing, 11 Grandview Terr., 7:30pm	Services, 8:15pm New Members Night	Morning Service, 10:30am
5 30	6 31					

Notes from the *New* Treasurer

Friday, July 3

Parsha: Chukat
Leslie Bergson

Friday, July 10

Parsha: Balak
Garry Koenigsberg

Friday, July 17

Parsha: Pinhas
Daniel Chesir

Friday, July 24

Parshot: Mattot-Massei
Garry Koenigsberg

Saturday, July 25

Morning Service, 10:30 am
Leslie Bergson

Friday, July 31

Shabbot Hazon
Parsha: Devarim
The Torah will be read.

Monday, August 3

Tisha B'av Evening Service
7:30 pm

Friday, August 7

Tenth Anniversary Service
Shabbat Nachamu
Parsha: Va-etchanan
Rabbi Yoel Kahn, the Ritual
Committee & Friends

Friday, August 14

Parsha: Ekev
Ritual Committee & Friends

Friday, August 21

Parsha: Re'eh
Ritual Committee & Friends

Friday, August 28

Parsha: Shoftim
Steve Greenberg & Sen Talley

Saturday, August 29

Morning Service, 10:30 am
Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Steve Greenberg
& Sen Talley
Bat-Mitzvah of Sen Talley

I thank you for the honor of being selected treasurer for this year. I will do my best to maintain the financial health of the congregation.

All of our members should have received their annual dues renewal notices in the mail by now. Please read my letter carefully and return your pledge to the synagogue as soon as possible. If you have any questions about your dues pledge, please do not hesitate to contact me at 239-8180.

The new Sha'ar Zahav computer is almost ready to go, and this will mean increased efficiency for the synagogue this year. Many thanks to Chris Ortega and Jerry Rosenstein for teaching me the many details of this wonderful new machine. Speaking of Jerry, we were very lucky to have his services as treasurer last year. He has turned the records over balanced down to the last cent, and in readable form! Many thanks, Jerry, for your devotion and support.

Here's to a wonderful summer for everyone. Hope to see all of you at "Ten from the Heart"—our 10th Anniversary Party on August 8.

—Eric Keitel

Women's Havurah Planning Ahead

A popular Solstice Pool Party on June 21 rounded out the busy 1986-87 year of activities for the Women's Havurah. Now, it is time to plan for 1987-88.

All women are invited to come to a brainstorming, planning meeting on Tuesday, July 14, at 7:30 pm in the synagogue. We hope that a calendar for the year will emerge from the meeting, and your ideas are needed. Women's services, pre-Shabbat dinners, our High Holiday Blood drive, and at least one pool party are "givens," but we want to continue to have an event each month to meet the interests of all women CSZ members as well as those interested in learning more about Sha'ar Zahav.

Please call me evenings at 837-1179 if you have any questions, but put the planning meeting on your schedule now!

—Marion Trentman, Chair

July Birthdays

- 1 Diane Sabin
1 Susan W.
7 Betty Kalis
8 Ben Schalit
9 Steve Elman
9 Bob Goldware
10 Bill Schlichter
11 Laurent Gasperini
14 Paul Wotman
16 Alice Perlman
20 Hannah Blazewick
23 Nancy Meyer
24 Abigail Abbuehl
25 Sally Martin
26 Benjamin Morgan-
Achtenberg
28 David Levine
28 Cheryl Orvis
29 Jeffrey Presement
29 Jonathan Schwartz
30 Prudence Carter

August Birthdays

- 1 Edward L.
2 Francie McGowan
4 Jonathan Funk
4 Nancy Snow
6 Marilyn O'Keeffe
7 John Golebowski
9 Allan Gold
12 David Glassberg
16 Leland Vogel
17 Laura M.
17 Lynne Scarper
18 Max Zaslowsky
19 Dan Bellm
19 Paul Cohen
21 Kathleen Sharp
23 Frank Hyman
23 Michael Lipson
25 Adam Inlander
25 Sen Talley
26 Diane Kuchins
30 Marilyn Miller
30 Shelley Spiro

Our Rabbi in the Community

In recent months, Rabbi Kahn was "in residence" for a Shabbat with our sibling congregation, Beth Chayim Chadashim in Los Angeles; lectured on "The Historical Background of Modern Jewish Thought" to a class at UC Davis and on "A New Ethic of Sexuality" at Temple Bnai Tikvah in Walnut Creek; and met with the Women Students Association at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. He served on the Steering Committee of the AIDS/ARC Interfaith Conference for Clergy and Care-Givers, spoke at the convention of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Service Agencies, participated in an in-service training for staff at Hospice of San Francisco, and was a member of a successfully community delegation which met with editors at the *San Francisco Chronicle* about the printing of non-marital survivors in *Chronicle* obituaries.

Rabbi Kahn is giving the sermon at the Friday evening service at the conference of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations in Amsterdam and will be leading two workshops at the conference; he is also giving the invocation at the annual meeting of the United Way of the Bay Area.

Rabbi Kahn's article, titled "Patrilineal Descent Should Not Be Limbo," was published by *Sh'ma* magazine; his essay on "Judaism and Homosexuality: The Progressive/Traditional Debate" was accepted for publication by *The Journal of Homosexuality*. This essay was awarded the Benjamin Goor Prize in Judaic Studies by UC Berkeley.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Anniversaries

- 7/4 Robin Leonard & Lee Ryan
- 7/6 Carol Cohen & Sandra B.
- 8/1 Leila Raim & Catherine Wisniewski
- 8/23 Eric Keitel & Aaron Cooper
- 8/28 Judy Macks & Adele Prandini

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Allan Peter Altman 1948-1987

The Newsletter Committee and the congregation lost another good friend on May 19, 1987, with the death of Allan Peter Altman from AIDS.

Allan was an inveterate traveller since his youth in Brooklyn, a loving uncle, son, and brother, an intense friend, and a warm, witty and gentle member of the congregation. We will miss him.

Cookbook Countdown

As this double issue of the *Forward* goes to press, finishing touches are being applied to our forthcoming book, *Out of Our Kitchen Closets, San Francisco Gay Jewish Cooking*. Orders have been streaming in from CSZ members, families and friends, locally and nationwide—even from Europe and Israel!

Those readying the final manuscript and illustrations can't wait to fill all of those advance orders, and to stock store shelves with the wonderful finished product.

Out of Our Kitchen Closets is filled with 150 carefully tasted and tested recipes, and sprinkled with heart-warming stories. Far more than just another cookbook, its unique introduction chronicles the 10-year history of our dynamic congregation, making it an ideal gift or souvenir for CSZ's 10th anniversary celebration. Three dollars from the sale of each book will benefit the Food Bank of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Don't miss out on this unique treat. Order your copies now. Order forms are available at the synagogue office.



International Update

Reserve Sunday, August 16 at noon for brunch and a chance to hear what happened at the International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews in Amsterdam (July 2-5) along with the subsequent trip to Israel. Sharing their individual experiences (and pictures) will be Jonathan Schwartz, Ora Prochovnick, Don Albert, Dana Vinicoff, Ed Tanovitz and Nancy Snow. If you didn't attend the conference or wish to relive and share your own impressions, join us. Israeli brunches are wonderful and so are Sha'ar Zahav's, with all the bagels, lox, cream cheese and fruit salad you can enjoy for a very modest \$5. For reservations and further information call the synagogue office.

—Education Committee

Refusenik's Letter Reaches Fremont

After many years of writing letters to Soviet Jews, I was excited finally to receive a reply. Even though our letters may not always reach the refuseniks, and we may not receive responses, our writing is of vital importance.

Lev Shapiro writes, "We try not to give up hope that some day we shall be able to meet you.... We take our courage and faith from the fact that we have so many friends who are thinking and concerning of us. We have to believe that the age of miracles maybe is not over...."

A small effort on our part gives so much strength to these Soviet Jews. What we can do:

- Participate in vigils at the Soviet Consulate
- Join the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews
- Call the BACSJ (585-1400) to request names and addresses of Soviet Jews to whom we can write and guidelines for what to include in our letters
- Adopt a refusenik family.

In January 1987, Lev Shapiro, his wife and two children again were refused permission to leave the Soviet Union. You may write them at: Lev Shapiro, Canal Griboyedova 80, Apt. 13, Leningrad 190068, USSR.

—Steven Elman

July Yahrzeits

- Leroy Baldwin, father of Lawney Baldwin
- 1 Marguerite Darsell, aunt of Bill Schlichter
- 4 Genendel Szekely, grandmother of Marilyn Kalman
- 7 Andrea Goldberg, friend of Ida Kuluk
- 7 (10 Tammuz) Hyman Witt, father of Sue Witt
- 8 Edward Ingersoll, father of Alex Ingersoll
- 9 Ana Heitner, grandmother of Jose Luis Moscovich
- 9 Charlotte Lucas, mother of George Lucas
- 10 (13 Tammuz) Charles Crane, father of Rick Crane
- 12 Lillian Fox, aunt of Tiela Chalmers
- 15 Clara Magoon, aunt of Betty Kalis
- 15 Allan Zimmerman, father of Mike Zimmerman
- 16 Nelly Meyer, mother of Nancy Meyer
- 17 Steven Berman, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
- 18 Mary Berkowitz, grandmother of Roberta W.
- 18 Eli Shaber, father of David Shaber
- 23 Richard Blanc, father of Paul Blanc
- 24 Adele Kuluk, mother of Ida Kuluk
- 25 David Commancho, friend of Garry Koenigsberg
- 25 (28 Tammuz) Samuel Irving Toporek, father of Elliott Toporek
- 26 Meyer Kurtz, uncle of Susan Greenspan
- 27 Gershon Taitelbaum, grandfather of Yael Silverberg
- 28 Ann Bronstein, grandmother of Devorah Bat-Ha'Yah
- 29 Ernst Rosenstein, brother of Jerry Rosenstein

Children's Havurah

Shabbat Potluck

The Family/Children's Havurah will be having a Shabbat Potluck on Friday, July 17 at Jill's house (2838 Atwell Ave., Oakland) at 6 pm. Bring something to share. Call Jill at 534-2339 for more info.

In August, we'll be having a potluck picnic in Douglass Park on Sunday the 16th from noon to 3 pm. Douglass Park is located at Douglass and 26th streets in San Francisco. Call Margaret at 653-3236 for more info.

Shabbat with Joshua

Having a child has changed me in countless ways. One of the most delightful and satisfying changes is that I am becoming a more observant Jew. In the midst of the hustle of getting home from child care and work, Joshua, Annie and I manage to light the Shabbat candles every Friday. We sing the blessings and Shabbat songs; and when I really have it together, we have challah and grape juice. But even when it's just lighting the candles and singing, it's a very special moment in my week.

Joshua is 19 months old now, and very aware of Shabbat. He loves

saying the word. A few weeks ago, Annie, Josh and I were having dinner at Sizzler (what a salad bar!) and Josh got very mischievous looking. I could tell he was going to shriek something at the top of his lungs. He did. "Shabbat! Shabbat!" (No doubt the people sitting near us thought he was talking about some new superhero.)

Whenever Josh sees a candle, he says "Shabbat" and smiles. Of the many, many joys my son has brought me, sharing my religion, my culture, with him in a very "living" way, has been one of the most precious.

—Jill Rose

August Yahrzeits

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Margaret Buddell, grandmother of Abigail Abbuehl | 15 Esther Naboshek, grandmother of Cheri Pies |
| 1 Sadie Katz Built, great aunt of Bruce Katz | 17 Morris Charney, father of Seth Charney |
| 1 Marguerite Parsell, aunt of Bill Schlichter | 17 Leo Leyser, grandfather of Kipp Leyser |
| 1 Jean Sikoff, aunt of David Glassberg | 18 Estella Mantey, grandmother of Bill Schlichter |
| 2 David Kotch, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and lover of Michael Erceg | 19 (24 Av) Fanny Prochovnick, grandmother of Ora Prochovnick |
| 4 (9 Av) Sadie Radetsky, grandmother of Allan Berenstein | 19 (24 Av) Golda Rudman, grandmother of Rick Crane |
| 4 Madelyn Gross Walters, mother of Stephen Walters | 23 Frances Glassberg, aunt of David Glassberg |
| 6 Joel Polsky, brother of Steve Polsky | 23 Michael Zook, friend of Barry Rosen |
| 8 Mark Landsberger, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav | 27 Robert Kalman, brother of Marilyn Kalman |
| 8 Karyl Bowden Swayze, friend of Bob Gutterman | 29 Bessie Bloom Minsky, grandmother of Mike Rankin |
| 9 Miriam Honigstein, mother of Dvora Honigstein | 30 (5 Elul) Israel Boskoff, grandfather of Jane Graeven |
| 10 (15 Av) Manuel Nachman, father of Sen Talley | 30 Mabel Lear, grandmother of Dana Lear |
| 10 Celia Katz, grandmother of Bruce Katz | |
| 12 (17 Av) Ashley Dobbin, father of Bill Ashley-Dobbin | |
| 12 Abraham Fishman, husband of Isabel Fishman | |
| 13 Saul Mesinger, father of Jonathan Mesinger | |
| 15 Susan Caldwell, cousin of Mike Rankin | |
| 15 Elaine Meyer Minsky, aunt of Mike Rankin | |
| 15 Samuel Minsky, grandfather of Mike Rankin | |

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

Food Bank

Please, don't forget our brothers and sisters in need. Keep filling the shul's collection baskets with non-perishable food and other household items for the SF AIDS Foundation's residence program.

A Taste of Honey Lingers

One hundred forty-four women and children gathered at Camp Swig on the weekend of May 15-17 for "A Taste of Honey," a Women's Conference planned and organized by the Women's Havurah of Sha'ar Zahav. May and now June are past, but the taste of honey still lingers for the attendees, many of whom can hardly wait for another gathering to occur.

Both traditional and non-traditional rituals were a part of the weekend, and a Siddur prepared especially for the occasion by the hard-working ritual subcommittee, chaired by Roberta Weber, used feminized Hebrew throughout.

Seventeen workshops covered topics from Mural Painting, to Writing, to Living as a Lesbian in Israel, to Creating Rituals. The response to workshops on Lesbian Mothering, Intimacy and Communication, and Legal Issues for Lesbians were particularly enthusiastic.

Special children's programming as well as child care added enjoyment for the mothers who attended. Affinity groups, Israeli folk dancing, a campfire with songfest, a Saturday night dance, swimming, a games party, softball, tennis, volleyball, nature walks and hiking rounded out the social aspects of the weekend.

The hard-working conference planning committee was led by Marion Trentman, chair of the Women's Havurah, and included Susan Greenspan, Betty Kalis, Cheryl Orvis, Leila Raim and Roberta W. Many other women contributed to the success of the conference, including the workshop leaders and others who consulted or coordinated aspects of the weekend. Fifty of the women who attended were Sha'ar Zahav members and the others came primarily from the Bay Area, but there were several from Los Angeles as well as women from Fresno, Oregon and Massachusetts, and an Israeli workshop leader.

The overwhelming majority of women at the conference were interested in having another one soon. Women who are interested in serving on a planning committee for another conference are urged to contact Marion Trentman at 837-1179.



PHOTOS BY AMY BLASINILIM

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Can you tell me anything about the Jewish Star? I know it is called Mogen David, the shield of David, but how can it shield anything with all those holes in it? What do the six points symbolize, anyway?

Musing on Market

Dear Musing,

Questions about symbols are Aunt Yente's favorite. Anything she wants she can put down as an answer, because all explanations are right—can you prove they're not?

About the Jewish Star: so the six triangles surrounding the central hexagon (you can ask Aunt Yente the Yiddish word for hexagon, but she's not going to tell you) represent the six orders of the Mishnah forming a fence around the Torah. Too esoteric? How about the six work days and the central Shabbos? Too dull? So here's Aunt Yente's final offer: The six little triangles are the six basic food groups (bread, cake, fried foods, soup, onions, and gefülte fish), and the big box in the center is how the person who eats them every day will look.

So you may ask how your Aunt Yente can make fun of an ancient Jewish symbol that was carried by King David; but she'll tell you that David had nothing to do with it, and it isn't anyway so ancient. (Neither is Aunt Yente, but did anyone com-

pliment her new shietle at the oneg?) There were early magical writings (we're not talking mystical, as in Kaballah, but magical, as in naarishkeit, even if the line is sometimes a little thin) that talked of a magic shield that King David carried in battle. On it was the sacred 72-letter name of God, or maybe the name of an angel, or maybe Psalm 67 in the shape of a menorah. Other magicians would talk about David's son Solomon, also a King (it's nice he went into the family business), as a sorcerer with great power over demons. *Solomon's* shield, the symbol he used to control the demons, was a five-pointed star, except maybe it had six points. This shield idea got people excited, and both Jewish and non-Jewish magicians used the two kinds of stars to ward off demons. (Aunt Yente herself prefers garlic.)

So because it was all in the family, whose shield it was got moved around. In the 1300s was probably the first time that, in a book on Kabbalah, the six-pointed star got called David's shield—Mogen David. Around this time, a few Jewish towns began to use it as their own emblem, but still no one had thought of it as a symbol of Jews in general. (Anyone knowing Jews in general would know how likely one symbol we would all agree on.) But tying the star in with David gave it a

real push. The tradition of the Messiah is a very important one, and traditionally the Messiah was described as coming from the descendants of David. So the symbol of David also became the symbol of the Messiah, of the Jewish hope for redemption.

By the 1600s, the star was occasionally used as a symbol of the Jews, although the older symbol of the menorah was still more common. But nineteenth century Jews were looking for something zippy, a simple symbol that would match the symbol of the cross. *Takke*. Then the Zionists decided that they would use it in their flag (now the flag of Israel), and the symbol of the Messiah became the symbol of giving up waiting for the Messiah.

Up to this point, using the Star was still a little silly, because its beginning had no real connection with the Jews. But in the 1930s and 40s, in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, the Star became sanctified in a way that is hard to understand, and hard to talk about, even for Aunt Yente. Maybe the turning point was when the non-Jews of Denmark voluntarily put on the Star that their Jewish neighbors were forced to wear, so that no one could be singled out. Maybe that was when the Star became a holy symbol.

Even so, very holy the Star of David is not. You don't need to bow when you take out your parcheesi board, and if there's a Star on a chain around your neck you don't have to take it off when you go to the bathroom (which cannot be said about the little mezuzas people wear, but that's another column). But if you're still wondering why it's shaped the way it is, Aunt Yente can only give you her father's answer to such questions (which is turning out to be more and more handy the more columns she writes). It's shaped the way it is and not different, because, if it was shaped different you would ask why it was shaped that way and not the way it is.

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material Copyright © 1987 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.



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Va'ad Report

Vice President Richard Inlander chaired the June 8 Va'ad meeting, as President Irene Ogus was out of town to attend a UAHC Board of Trustees meeting. Rabbi Kahn, in his *D'var Torah*, described some of the things he learned during the May Semiannual meeting, and emphasized some of the things Sha'ar Zahav is doing very well. That Sha'ar Zahav does not do parliamentary procedure so well (sometimes) is a positive sign.

CSZ Treasurer Jerry Rosenstein reported that up to \$4000 in dues for the past year is still owed by members. After his report, Jerry received a round of applause for his fine work as Sha'ar Zahav treasurer.

Rabbi Kahn said he will be leading a Friday evening service in Amsterdam at the 10th International Conference of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations. The Va'ad also discussed a number of agenda items for the World Congress meeting to guide Dana Vinicoff in voting as Sha'ar Zahav's representative.

UAHC Liaison Mike Rankin described the process CSZ should use in drafting a resolution to be brought to the UAHC Biennial in Chicago, and the Va'ad discussed a draft proposed by the Social Action Committee and Robin Leonard. Richard welcomed the newly elected Va'ad members who were attending this meeting of the Va'ad, and expressed thanks to the outgoing members of the Va'ad for their good work.

The Va'ad unanimously passed Sen Talley's motion to approve the membership application received in June and approved Mike's motion to reprint copies of Sha'ar Zahav's Friday evening siddur, and make them available for sale. The Va'ad also discussed plans for High Holidays, which this year will be coordinated by Ellen Kugler. Richard reported on possibilities for Sha'ar Zahav to have its own cemetery.

Women's Havurah chair Marion Trentman presented a detailed report on the successful Women's Conference at Camp Swig in May. Richard reported that the Sha'ar Zahav Cookbook is nearing completion, with proofreading just completed and indexing in progress, and Jerry stated that there is

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- The new synagogue cookbook
- \$3.00 from each book will benefit the AIDS Food Bank of the S.F. AIDS Foundation

Order forms available at the CSZ office

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in past months by the following contributors:

Social Action Fund

Sanctuary Bond Appeal: Jennie Schacht, Hilda Saperstein & Janine Baer

AIDS Fund

Lillian & Gerard Landsberger, in memory of their son, Mark

General Fund

Bob Goldstein, in honor of Michael Bettinger's graduation

Ernie Weinstein, in honor of Sarah Beck's Bas Mitzvah; in memory of Ruth Braun; and in honor of the Congregation

Leslie Bergson in memory of Walter Schneeman

Eleanor & Ralph Coffman, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's 60th birthday

Tom Rothgiesser & George Lucas, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's 60th birthday

already a substantial number of advance orders for the cookbook.

The Va'ad's tradition of productive (and sometimes long) meetings was followed by the (also traditional) singing of *Oseh Shalom*.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

Steve Elman, in honor of the birthdays of Jerry Rosenstein, Eric Keitel; wishing Mrs. Erceg a speedy recovery

Cheryl Orvis, in honor of Marion Trentman, committee chair, the Steering Committee and everyone whose efforts made the Women's Weekend such a success

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

George Ash, in thanks for beautiful days

Lillian Benson, in honor of Bob Gutterman & Paul Cohen's new home

Yael Silverberg & Luana Willis, in honor of their kiddushin

Building Fund

Aaron Cooper & Eric Keitel, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's birthday

Enoch Harrison, in honor of David Stein's birthday

Charles Norton

Marion Trentman & Betty Kalis, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's birthday

Library Fund

Cindy Schorr, in memory of Abe Schorr

Steve Elman, in memory of Jonathan Schwartz's grandmother

Jonathan Funk, in honor of Irene Ogus' term as president of CSZ

Education Fund

Steve Elman, mazel tov to Mike Rankin on his selection as UAHC Regional Vice President

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

שַׁעַר זָהָב

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Richard Inlander
Vice President, Irene Ogus
Treasurer, Eric Keitel
Recorder, Ben Schalit

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Tiela Chalmers
Jay Feinstein
Robert Goldware
Betty Kalis
Garry Koenigsberg
Ellen Kugler
Robin Leonard
Alita Rosenfeld
Susan Talley

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm, with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Family/Children's Havurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Education, Bill Goldstein
Finance, Don Albert
Membership, Robin Leonard
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Bill Ashley-Dobbin & Lawney Baldwin
Past Presidents Council, Cheryl Orvis
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky & Andy Zimmerman
Ritual, Steve Greenberg
Social Action, Ami Zusman
Social Program, by committee
Women's Havurah, Marion Trentman

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Manager:

Jacqueline Letalien

Synagogue Office: Open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 2:30 pm. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Ashbury to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Oneg Sponsors

During May and June, onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 5/15 Eli Weinstein, in thanks to members of CSZ who showed their concern and affection during his recovery from surgery
- 5/29 Sharyn Saslafsky, in memory of Mark Feldman
- 6/19 Past Presidents' Council, in honor of the new officers and Va'ad members

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring a complete oneg is \$80 or, for partial sponsorship, \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Softball Game & Picnic

It's time to mark your calendars for the annual Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Softball Game and Picnic. The event will be held on Sunday, August 23 at Julius Kahn softball field in the Presidio, which for the past few years has been the location of this afternoon of sun, softball, fun (including the *New York Times* crossword puzzle) and of course, food. We have the field reserved from 1:30 pm until dark.

Julius Kahn is a beautiful location (you can see the top of the Golden Gate Bridge from the field) and easy to find. Drive north on Arguello Boulevard until you enter the Presidio Army base. As soon as you enter the Presidio, make a sharp right turn. Follow this road through two stop signs, and *voila*—the field will appear on your left. There is plenty of parking on the right side of this road.

If you're a regular softball player, someone who plays once a year (like at the CSZ annual softball game and picnic), someone who has never played in your life, or are interested in teaching your kid(s) how to play, make sure you make it on the 23rd. All members and friends are invited to this highly non-competitive game, and we especially hope that some of our children members are able to make it.

Bring your own lunch (brown bag it or bring a grill) and any softball equipment you might have (like a mitt); we'll supply the bats, balls, and bases, and we'll have some extra mitts, too, so don't let not having a mitt be an excuse for not coming either.

For more information, call Robin Leonard at 386-7876.

—Membership Committee

OUR HEBREW CONNECTIONS

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Education Committee
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HEBREW CALLIGRAPHY

א ב ג ד

Susan Greenspan, freelance calligrapher and creator of Jewish images; art therapist in the Bay Area.

Learn to write a beautiful and simple Hebrew Aleph Bet. We will study the letters, their forms and mystical meanings. A beginning course. Previous experience in calligraphy or Hebrew not required.

Tuesdays • August 4, 11, 18, 25 • 7:30–9:00 p.m.

GAY THEMES IN HEBREW LITERATURE

Jody Hirsch, professor of Judaic studies, University of San Francisco.

Explore Gay and Lesbian themes in Hebrew literature from different periods of history. We will read from new translations of works previously unavailable in English. The course will cover: Gay themes in the Bible, Homoerotic poetic of Medieval Spain, Gay themes in the Jewish Enlightenment, and modern Israeli Gay themes.

Thursdays • August 6, 20, 27, September 3 • 7:30–8:30 p.m.

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Hebrew Calligraphy	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00
Materials Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 5.00
Gay Themes in Hebrew Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.00
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

